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Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01
IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07
NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01 HA-05
AGRE-00 /113 W
----------000937 230835Z /13
R 230736Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9607
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: EAID, EFIN, NP
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, SHUM KM
SUBJECT: SIKTA IRRIGATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (NEPAL)

REF: (A) TREASURY 77-187, (B) KATHMANDU 5392,
(C) MANILA 18917

1. ON DECEMBER 22, ADB BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED $470,000 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT, FUNDED BY UNDP TO GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR IRRIGATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN SIKTA AREA OF WESTERN NEPAL. PRESS RELEASE WILL BE POUCHED.

2. INDIAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DREW BANK MANAGEMENT'S ATTENTION TO A FEASIBILITY STUDY PROVIDED BY HIS GOVERNMENT FOR A MULTIPURPOSE PROJECT ON RAPTI RIVER AT BHALUBHANG. HE NOTED THAT HARNESSING OF RAPTI WATERS
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UNDER PROPOSED BHALABHANG DAM PROJECT WOULD HELP MEET IRRIGATION REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH NEPAL AND INDIA. HE RECOMMENDED THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SIKTA PROJECT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE BHALUBHANG DAM PROJECT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT INDIAN STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH ALREADY HAS IRRIGATION FACILITIES BASED ON USE OF RAPTI WATERS AND THAT SOME FURTHER SCHEMES HAVE BEEN ENVISAGED FOR

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IRRIGATING NEW AREAS. BANK STAFF NOTED THESE COMMENTS
AND SAID CONSULTANTS WOULD BE ADVISED ON THIS MATTER.

3. U.S. ED CALLED ATTENTION TO LAND TENURE PROBLEM IN
BANKE DISTRICT ALONG LINES REFTEL B. HE ASKED HOW
BANK INTENDED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM. STAFF RESPONDED
THAT CONSULTANTS WOULD EXPLORE SUBJECT THOROUGHLY.
THEN, IF PROJECT IS TO RESULT FROM FEASIBILITY STUDY,
BANK WOULD TALK WITH GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT NECESSARY
IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE MADE IN LAND TENURE SYSTEM.
THERE WOULD BE COVENANTS TO THIS EFFECT IN ANY LOAN
AGREEMENT. STAFF ASSURED THAT PROBLEM WILL BE EXAMINED
CLOSELY. VICE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT ONE DIFFICULTY
IN PURSUING LAND REFORM SCHEMES RELATES TO FINANCIAL
FACTOR WHERE INDIVIDUAL WORKERS ARE SHORT OF
FUNDS. HE ADDED THAT AGRICULTURAL CREDIT IS A MAJOR
ASPECT OF LAND REFORM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS
ASPECT WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SIKTA PROJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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